

CITIZENS WANT CAR FACILITIES

Rockville Appoints Committee to Obtain Them.

LESS TRAINS; MORE FARE

Seven-Mile Radius Outside District Limits Brings Ten Cents to Commuters of Company.

Citizens of Rockville have appointed a committee to make an investigation and see whether it is possible to have car fares to and from Washington reduced to what they were before the electric railroad company increased them.

Henry C. Burenger, a local business man, has been appointed chairman of the committee. He expects to have a talk with General Harries and the other officers of the railroad company early this week.

The citizens assert that the number of cars operated daily have been reduced, and that fares have been doubled in a fashion similar to the long and short haul tariffs of the big trunk lines of the country. Under the trunk line rules it frequently costs much less to travel and ship freight a thousand miles than it does five hundred. The same is now true, the citizens say, in a trip from Washington to Rockville.

Cars Reduced One-Fourth.
"Cars between the two points," said the chairman of the citizens' committee yesterday, "have been reduced one-quarter. We now have to wait at times half an hour for a car. The natural result is crowding, and frequently we have to stand nearly all of the way from Washington to Rockville."

"The company has also adopted a fare tariff that is decidedly peculiar. It would seem that the company has drawn a circle about seven miles in diameter around Rockville. The fare is 10 cents, while to the District line and into Washington the fare is the same. Why this should be, we are going to find out."

The officers of the railroad company are reticent in discussing the troubles with the patrons of the line. They declare that any reduction made in the number of cars operated was necessary because of the lack of travel. When travel justifies it, they say, the cars will be replaced. Concerning the fares, the officers say they are the same as those paid on any of the suburban lines.

When asked for a statement, General Harries declined to make any, but said he would willingly hear any citizens' committee that might call upon him.

Hiram Cronk the Last Survivor of 1812 War

Lives in Oneida County, N. Y., Is 104 Years Old, and Draws Pensions Aggregating \$100 a Month.

Hiram Cronk, who has recently been granted a pension of \$75 a month by the State of New York, is the sole survivor of the war of 1812. He is 104 years old, and is said to be in fairly good health, and likely to live for several years.

For a long time prior to 1902 he drew only \$12 a month from the Government. In the Fifty-seventh Congress a bill was introduced to increase the amount to \$25 a month. This was favorably acted on by Representative Loudenslager's committee and passed both the House and Senate.

Recently the New York Legislature, believing that the old man, who is with-

out other funds, should be recognized, has voted to give an additional \$75 a month, which will increase his income to \$100 a month and place him beyond all want for the remainder of his days.

Mr. Cronk lives at Ava, Oneida county, N. Y., and during the second war with Great Britain he served as a private from October 8 to November 16, 1814, in Capt. Edmund Fuller's company of New York volunteers.

There are a number of widows of soldiers of the war of 1812 who are upon the rolls as drawing pensions, but Mr. Cronk is the only person living who actually saw service in that war.

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY PLANS FOR OPENING

Effort to Amend Stipulation That \$5,000,000 Must Be Subscribed Before Institution Can Start.

Steps are being taken to put the American University in active operation. This has been prevented before because of a stipulation by the directors that \$5,000,000 must be raised before the college could receive students and start regularly to work. To raise this sum immediately has been found almost an impossibility.

Those persons who would have made much-appreciated donations of several thousands dollars were scared off by the size of the total amount asked for, and as no multi-millionaire, like John D. Rockefeller, came forward to make up the difference, the result has been that the university has practically received no donations for a very long time. Their original endowment amounted to \$2,000,000 altogether in assets, including the magnificent stretch of land owned on Georgetown Heights, but as no more money has been coming in the directors naturally became anxious and they want the charter so changed that the trustees may decide for themselves how much money will be needed before the university can be opened.

It is undoubtedly their intention to start the university in operation at a

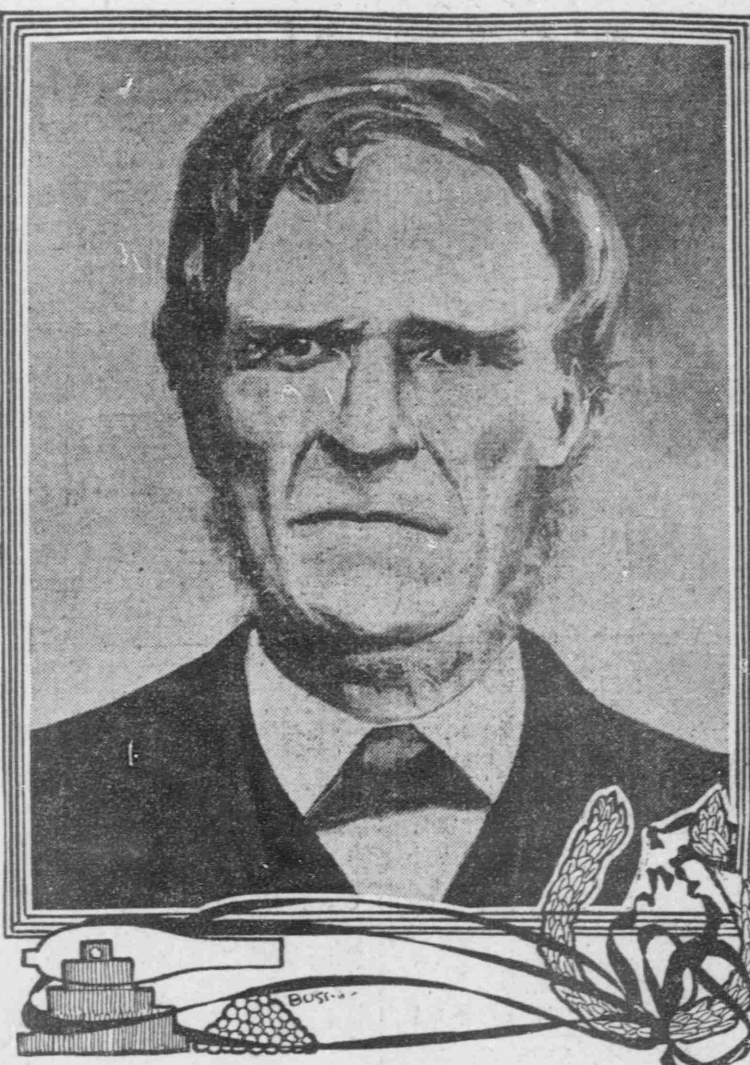
much earlier date than would otherwise be possible.

To settle the whole matter it will be brought up officially at the general conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, which will be held in Los Angeles, Cal., on May 3. At this conference the educational committee of the conference which has charge of the affairs of the American University will be asked to go over the whole matter of decreasing the required appropriation and their consent will be asked to remove the \$5,000,000 clause.

Dr. Davidson, the secretary of the board of trustees of the university is now in Baltimore where he is attending the meeting of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and he will use his influence among the delegates of that conference to favor the plan of the trustees to reduce the endowment required.

One of the buildings for the university is already completed. It is the college of history. Foundations have also been laid for the building to contain the college of civics, but there have been no professors selected or students advertised for on account of the uncertainty as to the period when the university will open. There is no movement on the part of the university to consolidate with Columbian as has been suggested.

LAST SURVIVOR OF THE WAR OF 1812.



Hiram Cronk, who will be 104 years old on the 29th of April, if he lives that long. He is the last survivor of the War of 1812. He lives with his daughter, Mrs. Sarah A. Rowley, in Oneida county, N. Y. Mr. Cronk is the only man now living of the 576,622 who enlisted in the War of 1812.

HORSE ON SPEEDWAY SPILLED HIS DRIVER

Becoming unmanageable, a horse attached to a buggy and driven by Charles Blumheim, of Alexandria, Va., ran away on the Speedway about 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Mr. Blumheim was thrown out of the buggy. The horse was stopped only after it had run the entire length of the Speedway. The driver escaped with a few bruises about the hands and face, and after receiving treatment at the Emergency Hospital, continued his drive.

CAPT. ROYAL B. BRADFORD HERE ON SHORT VISIT

Capt. Royal B. Bradford, who was in command of the battleship Illinois at the time of its collision with the Missouri off Guantanamo, came to Washington from New York this morning, for a visit here of several days. Captain Bradford called on Secretary Moody, at the Navy Department, this morning. The battleship Illinois is now undergoing repairs at the New York navy yard.

Darneille Hands Back Hot One to Engineers

Declares Assessment System Is Not Antiquated, and That Location of Station Raised Estimate on Values of Land.

"The system of assessing property in the District is not antiquated," said Hopewell H. Darneille, the District Assessor, in commenting yesterday on the criticisms that have been made relative to the fact that the property in the vicinity of the proposed plaza in front of the new Union Station is on the assessment lists as being worth much less than the owners now ask for it.

"Neither the Commissioners nor the Engineer Department can hold us responsible for the simple action of the law of supply and demand," he continued. "The property owners near the site of the station know now that there is a demand for their lands and houses, and as a consequence of this knowledge they have put a greater value on their holdings."

At this point the Assessor explained his belief that the system of triennial assessments of property in the District is the best Washington ever had. He claimed that the old plan of assessments every year produced nothing but dissatisfaction.

"How could we see," he went on, "including in a little mild sarcasm, 'that

the station was to be put there? The Board of Assistant Assessors is not gifted with second sight, nor could it employ spirit mediums in the course of its labors. The property was set down for what it was worth at that time, and the board could not prophesy as to future values."

"I admit that the values of the property are not as small now as they were when the last assessment was made. Consequently, the assessment lists are not a real guide to the true values now existing in that neighborhood. Also, the Assessors are confronted with this possibility all the time. Nevertheless, the triennial system of assessments is the best I know of for the District."

It is now probable that the Engineer Department will avoid all use of the assessment books in attempting to make deals with the property owners, and will depend on the information furnished on the subject by the expert appraisers that have been employed to submit a statement of the values of land in the vicinity of the plaza site.

If a price cannot be agreed on by the District assessor and the property owners, condemnation proceedings through the courts will be relied on to secure the necessary space for the plaza and the new streets leading to it.

MOUNTAIN SWALLOWED? BAH! SAYS GEOLOGIST

Maine Expert on Rock Formation Discredits Story of Disappearing Eminence Replaced by a Lake.

Little credit is given at the Geological Survey to the report from Caribou, Me., that Bald Mountain has fallen through the earth and left a muddy lake where it was.

Bald Mountain has for years been one of the interesting sights of Tioque Valley, which is only a few miles from the New Brunswick line.

The story of its disappearance was brought to Caribou by a guide, who said that Bald Mountain had gone out of sight as a result of the earthquake recently felt all over New England.

Bald Mountain is about 1,000 feet high. G. O. Smith, of the Geological Survey, who has charge of the work in Maine, said yesterday that he is not inclined to credit the Caribou story.

"It is more than probable," said Mr.

Smith, "that when the earthquake shook things up and a few tons of rock from Bald Mountain and a landslide followed. There are a number of volcanic hills in that section whose rocks are as old as any in the world. It is not likely, though, that there was an eruption from Bald Mountain."

"As for the appearance of the muddy lake in the place where the mountain formerly was, that does not yield to reasonable explanation, and the story sounds a little too unlikely. The report probably passed through a number of mouths before it reached Caribou, and grew into the disappearance of Bald Mountain. The existence of the lake was probably discovered by the last man who had forgotten to ask his informant what had been left of the mountain."

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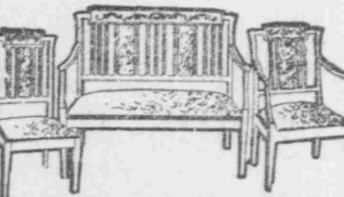
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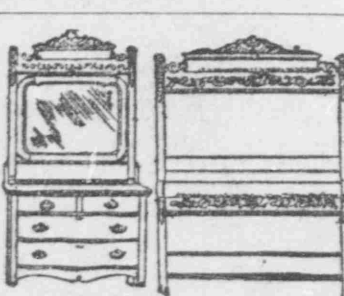
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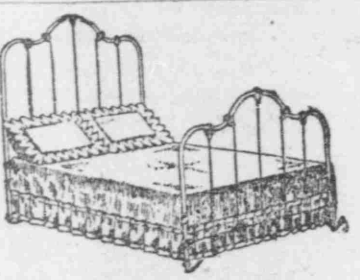


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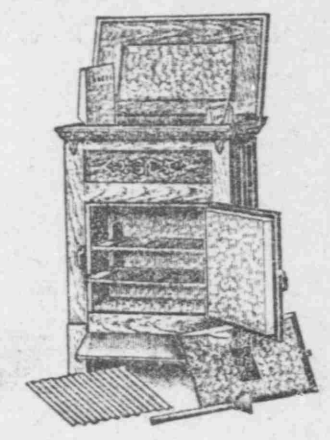
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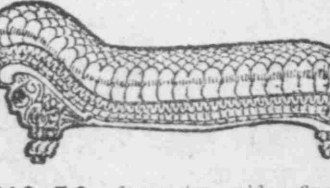
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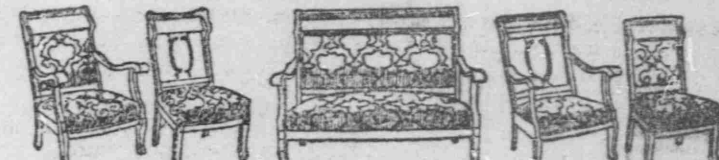
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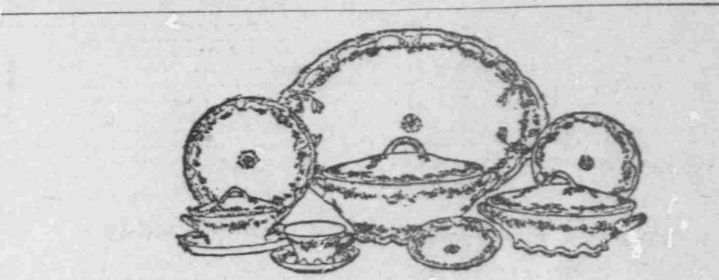
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